

**Remarks/Arguments:**

The pending claims are 1-4 and 6-19. Claim 17 has been amended. No new matter is introduced therein.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, and 8-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,842,383). The rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 recites, in part:

at least one rail. . .

first and second supports. . .

. . .and the rail is substantially orthogonal to the first support, so that the rail slides substantially orthogonally to the first support.

Yamada does not disclose "the rail is substantially orthogonal to the first support, so that the rail slides substantially orthogonally to the first support."

Page 2 of the Office Action states that upper rail 1 in Yamada meets the recitation of a rail in claim 1. Page 2 of the Office Action also states that lower rail 2 in Yamada meets the recitation of a first support in claim 1. In discussing a relationship between the "at least one rail" and the first support, however, page 3 of the Office Action has misstated one of the recitations in claim 1. The following table compares the pertinent recitation in claim 1 with the misstatement in the Office Action.

Recitation in claim 1	Statement in Office Action
wherein the recess is substantially parallel to the rail	wherein the recess is substantially parallel to the rail
and the rail is substantially orthogonal to the first support,	and is substantially orthogonal to the first support,
so that the rail slides substantially orthogonally to the first support.	so that the rail slides substantially orthogonally to the first support.

As shown by the table, claim 1 recites that "the rail is substantially orthogonal to the first support." The Office Action has misread claim 1 to recite "the recess. . . is substantially orthogonal to the first support."

As shown in Figure 3 and 4 of Yamada, upper rail 1 is not orthogonal to lower rail 2. Instead, upper rail 1 is parallel to lower rail 2. Accordingly, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Yamada. In fact, if lower rail 2 in Yamada were rotated so that it would be orthogonal to upper rail 1, the Yamada device would not operate. Since claims 2, 4, and 6 depend from claim 1, they are also not subject to the same rejection.

Claim 8 recites, in part:

a rail;

a support. . . ;  
\* \* \*

an extension coupled to the support, the extension having a portion moveable with respect to the support. . . .

Page 2 of the Office Action contends that the part identified by reference number 23 in Yamada is an "extension" for purposes of interpreting the claims. Page 2 of the Office Action also contends that either lower rail 2 or lock plate 5 of Yamada may be considered to be a support. If lower rail 2 is considered to be a support, the part identified by reference number 23 is not moveable with respect to lower rail 2. Instead, lower rail 2 and the part identified by reference number 23 comprise a single piece of metal. That is, the part identified by reference number 23 is part of lower rail 2. The Yamada specification confirms applicants' interpretation of Yamada. See, e.g., col. 3, line 57: "second flange walls 23 of the lower rail 2."

On the other hand, if lock plate 5 is considered to be a support for purposes of claim 8, extension 23 is not coupled to lock plate 5. Extension 23 is part of lower rail 2 and is not coupled to lock plate 5. Instead, lock plate 5 is coupled to rail 1. Therefore, even under this interpretation of Yamada, claim 8 is not anticipated.

There is no structure disclosed in Yamada that can be correlated to an extension that is coupled to the support and which is moveable with respect to the support. Accordingly, claim 8 and dependent claims 9-16 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Yamada.

Claim 17 has been amended to recite, in part: "positioning the rail adjacent and orthogonal to first and second supports." As noted above, the Office Action has identified upper rail 1 in Yamada as the rail recited in claim 17. The Office Action has also identified lower rail 2 and lock plate 5 in Yamada as the first and second supports recited in claim 17. Both lower rail 2 and lock plate 5 in Yamada are parallel to upper rail 1. They are not orthogonal to upper rail 1. Therefore, Yamada does not disclose the following feature recited in amended claim 17: "positioning the rail adjacent and orthogonal to first and second supports." Accordingly, claim 17 and dependent claim 18 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Yamada.

Claims 7 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yamada in view of Anthony (U.S. Patent No. 2,774,542). Claim 7 depends from claim 1. Claim 19 depends from amended claim 17. Anthony does not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 1 and in amended claim 17. As a result, even if the teachings of Yamada and Anthony were combined, neither claim 1 nor amended claim 17 would be subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yamada in view of Anthony. Therefore, claims 7 and 19 are also not subject to such a rejection.

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For all of the above reasons, claims 1-4 and 6-19 are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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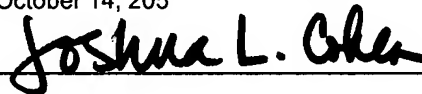
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